GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1474
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
HARMFUL EFFECTS OF FLUORIDE TOOTHPASTE
PATY RIPPLE KYNDIAH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Fluoride toothpaste harmful for children` appearing in the Times of India, New Delhi dated September 2, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts and details of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The newspaper report states that fluoride ingested by children less than four years old can be harmful. There are no studies indicating that fluoride toothpaste might be a primary cause of fluorosis. Fluorosis occurs only when high amounts of fluoride are ingested through other sources for a longer period. As per the International Dental Federation, extensive research has consistently demonstrated the safety and efficacy of fluoride in preventing dental decay. Government have also specified permissible limits for fluoride content in toothpaste under Rule 149-A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.